



# BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center, 1 School Street  
Bethel, Connecticut 06801 Telephone: (203) 794-8501

*Matthew S. Knickerbocker, First Selectman*  
*Richard C. Straiton, Selectman*  
*Paul R. Szatkowski, Selectman*

## MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, January 19, 2016  
7:30 p.m.

CJH Municipal Center – Meeting Room “A”

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TOWN OF BETHEL  
TOWN CLERK

**PRESENT:** First Selectman Knickerbocker, Selectman Straiton and Selectman Szatkowski. Also in attendance was Town Counsel Martin Lawlor.

**Call to order/Pledge of Allegiance:** First Selectman Knickerbocker called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**Public Comments:** None

**Correspondence:** None that was not already on tonight's agenda.

**Minutes of January 5, 2016:** Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

**First Selectman Report:** First Selectman Knickerbocker reported on some legislative items that WCCOG has proposed, of note, proposed changes to State Statute 8-30G Affordable Housing, updates to the prevailing wage, and opposition to the potential for tolls on the eastbound I-84 and I-95 NY borders.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to add to tonight's agenda, under Item # 2 – Appointments to Boards and Commissions – Board of Finance, Ethics Commission, Economic Development Commission, Public Site & Building Commission, Youth Commission and Youth Commission Alternate. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

## Board of Selectmen – Meeting Minutes of January 19, 2016

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First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to add to tonight's agenda, under New Business # 6 – Consideration of Appointment – Fire Marshal and Emergency Management Director. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

### **New Business**

#### **1.) Consideration of Resolution – Economic Development Commission**

This resolution allows for a grant application for funding up to two million dollars for the Transit Oriented Development (TOD); funding would be utilized for sidewalk renovations on the west side of the train station; the more funding received – the more sidewalks that can be addressed.

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, that the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Bethel hereby authorizes submission of the Responsible Growth and Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Grants in accordance with the Responsible Growth and Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Grant Request for Applications; and further,

That the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Bethel hereby authorizes Matthew S. Knickerbocker, First Selectman or his successor(s), to sign the grant application and to sign any other documents associated with administering the grant, if awarded, including any amendments thereto. Such grant application is attached to and made a part of this record.

Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

#### **2.) Consideration of Appointments to boards & commission**

**Commission on Aging:** First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to re-appoint Barbara Negri (R) to the Commission on Aging. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

**Housing Authority:** First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to appoint Claudia Stephen (D) and Elizabeth Cavagna (R) (seat formerly held by Timothy Beeble) to the Housing Authority. Voting in favor of the motion: First Selectman Knickerbocker and Selectman Straiton. Voting against the motion. Selectman Szatkowski. Motion passed. Selectman

## Board of Selectmen – Meeting Minutes of January 19, 2016

---

Szatkowski expressed disappointment that the Republican Town Committee's recommendation was not re-appointed.

**Library Board of Directors:** First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to re-appoint Robin Grubard (D), appoint Judy Schlemmer (D), re-appoint Richard Merritt (R) and re-appoint Terry Rotella (R) to the Library Board of Directors. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

**Parks and Recreation Commission:** First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to re-appoint Patrick Morton (D), re-appoint Meghan O'Connor (D) and appoint Kevin Riley (R) (seat formerly held by William Pullan) to the Parks & Recreation Commission. Voting in favor of the motion: First Selectman Knickerbocker and Selectman Straiton. Voting against the motion: Selectman Szatkowski. Motion passed. Selectman Szatkowski expressed disappointment that the Republican Town Committee's recommendation was not re-appointed.

**Constables:** First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to re-appoint Richard Straiton, re-appoint Janet Cosgrove (D), appoint Christopher McCollam (D), and re-appoint Robert Legnard (R) to the Constable positions. Voting in favor of the motion: First Selectman Knickerbocker and Selectman Straiton. Voting against the motion: Selectman Szatkowski. Motion passed. Selectman Szatkowski expressed disappointment that the Republican Town Committee's recommendation was not re-appointed.

**Public Utilities:** First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to re-appoint Peter Valenti (D) and appoint Deno Gualtieri (R) to the Public Utilities Commission. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

**Zoning Board of Appeals:** First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to appoint Richard Merritt (R) (fills vacancy created by the resignation of Nick Santaniello) to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

**Board of Finance:** First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to appoint Robert Manfreda (D) (fills the vacancy created by the resignation of Patricia Smithwick) to the Board of Finance. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

## Board of Selectmen – Meeting Minutes of January 19, 2016

---

**Ethics Commission:** First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to appoint Dina Valenti (D) (fills the seat of Robert Manfreda) and re-appoint Jenny Tesar (D) and Janice Patzold (D) to the Ethics Commission. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

**Economic Development Commission:** First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to re-appoint Michael Boyle (D) to the Economic Development Commission. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

**Public Site & Building Commission:** First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to re-appoint Jon Menti (D) and James Naddeo (D) to the Public Site & Building Commission. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

**Youth Commission:** First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to re-appoint Lisa Bergh (D), Robert Deletis (D) and Robert Stowell(D) to the Youth Commission. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

**Youth Commission Alternate:** First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to re-appoint Kristin Riolo (D) to the Youth Commission Alternate seat. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

### **3.) Consideration of Appointments Town Counsel, WCCOG & HRRA**

**Town Counsel:** First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to re-appoint Martin J. Lawlor as Town Counsel. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

**Western Connecticut Council of Governments (WCCOG):** First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to re-appoint Matthew S. Knickerbocker and Richard Straiton (alternate). Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

**Housatonic Resource Recovery Authority (HRRA):** First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to re-appoint Matthew S. Knickerbocker and Richard Straiton (alternate). Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

**4.) Consideration of Fee Schedule – all revenue collecting departments**

Discussion took place regarding the potential to increase revenues by revenue collecting departments. Town Counsel Martin Lawlor will look into which departments can increase fees by their own boards, which would require a legislative act and those that can be increased by department.

**5.) Consideration of Teen Center changes**

First Selectman Knickerbocker advised that the plans for the new direction of the Teen Center will not be finalized by the month's end when the director leaves and therefore, proposed the following motion:

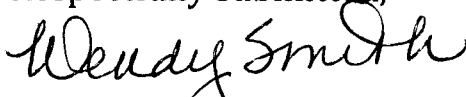
First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to appoint Claudia Fortunato as the Interim Teen Center Director; salary, hours, etc. to be established by the First Selectman as well as the provision that it would fall under the town's insurance coverage for worker's compensation and liability. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

**6.) Consideration of Appointment – Fire Marshal and Emergency Management Director**

First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to re-appoint Thomas Galliford as Fire Marshall and Emergency Management Director (believe these are 4 year appointments). Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

As there was no further business on tonight's agenda, Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary